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Fred Gaskins | fgaskins@hampton.gov | 757-727-6191
22 Lincoln Street | Hampton, VA 23669

## New Living Shoreline in Phoebus will help with erosion, stormwater runoff

Oct. 7, 2013 - Work recently wrapped up on the Living Shoreline in Phoebus, the city's first public living shoreline project designed to help prevent erosion and filter stormwater runoff.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held Saturday, Oct. 12 at noon at 47 Water Street, where the shoreline project serves as a visible gateway to Phoebus and Fort Monroe.

"This project tracks the recently updated master plan, and its early completion is a welcome sign of Hampton's renewed commitment to our community," said Faith Jones, president of the Partnership for a New Phoebus.

"Beyond that, it's an important first step that will result in the creation of a new gateway to Phoebus that our maritime visitors have been waiting for," said Jones. "While our new waterfront park may not be big, I can assure you it will be well-used by our community."

Historically, both public and private shorelines in Hampton have experienced erosion, usually as a result of high tides and waves from nor'easters and tropical storms.

In 2002, the city adopted the Hampton Beachfront and Storm Protection Management plan, which outlines a process for improving the quality and public use of shorelines.

More recently, the Hampton Comprehensive Waterways Committee, a citizens-led group responsible for developing long-term initiatives focused on the health and safety of city waterways, has supported shoreline stabilization.

Improved shorelines and gateways are also a key part of the Phoebus Master Plan, which is used to guide and coordinate future development and investment.

The Living Shoreline in Phoebus – made possible by a \$57,175 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust Foundation, covers about 5500 square feet of tidal wetlands and used approximately 1600 plugs of saltmarsh cordgrass and other native plants. Cordgrass is also planted on the transitional bank of the project.

In addition to improving water quality and stormwater treatment in the

immediate area, the new shoreline is expected to improve public access to the waterfront and serve as a model for other area shorelines.

Future plans for the Phoebus shoreline include improvements for recreational use and as a public gathering space. Similar shoreline projects are planned for Blue Bird Gap Farm and Ridgeway Park.

The money for the Phoebus project is part of a push by the Chesapeake Bay Trust to see "on the ground change" for the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The goal is to increase stewardship through grant programs, special initiatives, and partnerships that support environmental education, demonstration-based restoration, and community engagement activities. To learn more about the Trust, visit their website.

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